

## ***FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** April 19, 2018

**Agenda Item:** 2018 Mountain Lion Quotas

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Proposed

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 20 Minutes

**Background:** Lion Management Units (LMUs), often made up of more than one hunting district, listed in the table below have proposed changes from the 2017 mountain lion quotas in Regions 3 and 5. In February, the Commission approved increasing the HD 124 lion quota from 5 to 7. All other quotas/subquotas not listed are proposed to be unchanged from 2017 levels or as previously adopted by the commission.

In their respective areas, the proposals address issues and concerns such as harvest opportunity, lion populations, predation, primarily on mule deer and bighorn sheep, livestock depredations, and human-lion encounters in subdivisions and campgrounds. More detailed information is found in the justification for each proposal in the Commission packet.

**Proposed Montana 2018 Mountain Lion Quota Changes**

LMU	Current Quota	Proposed Quota
HDs 322/326/330	6 total with 2 female subquota	7 total with 2 female subquota
HDs 323/324/325/327	6 total with 2 female subquota	7 total with 2 female subquota
HD 380	10 total with 4 female subquota	5 total with 2 female subquota
HDs 530/590	8 any lion	10 any lion

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** Area landowners, sportsmen and FWP wardens are generally supportive of these proposals. All proposals have been vetted with some publics in each area, and we have received no comments in opposition landowners or sportsmen. No conflicts with landowners, sportsmen or other members of the public are anticipated. Public comment will be taken at this meeting and continue through 5 p.m., May 21. Final action will take place at the Commission meeting in June.

**Alternatives and Analysis:** Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, or no change from 2017 as per staff justifications, public comment and commission discussion.

**Agency Recommendation & Rationale:** FWP recommends approval of proposed quota adjustments with no changes in other Lion Management Units. Rationale includes mountain lion population management accommodating human tolerance, safety, prey populations and hunter opportunity.

### **Proposed Motion:**

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission approve for public comment, the proposed 2018 lion quota/subquota changes as presented by FWP, and that all other aspects of the lion regulations and quotas previously approved by the Commission are to remain unchanged.